

Application No. 09/884,591
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: ELECTION

The election, without traverse, of Group I, claims 1-23 is hereby affirmed, as required by the Examiner.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to more clearly and positively recite the structural features of the present invention, as shown in Fig. 1, and as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, pages 15-22.

In addition, claims 1-5, 7-14 and 16-23 have been amended to better accord with amended independent claims 1 and 18 and/or to make some minor grammatical improvements and to correct some minor antecedent basis problems so as to put the claims in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent. The informalities pointed out by the Examiner have been corrected.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered and that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

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THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-6, 9-20, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,838,916 ("Domenikos et al"); and claims 1-4, 6-8, 18, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,037,928 ("Nachinson et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims set forth hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, an image forming system is provided which comprises an image forming apparatus to form an image on a recording material, and an administering apparatus to administrate the image forming apparatus through the network. And according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 8, an image forming apparatus is provided that has the structure and functions of the image forming apparatus in the image forming system recited in claim 1.

More specifically, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 8, the image forming apparatus comprises: a first memory section to store a program to conduct a predetermined operation; an image forming section which forms the image on the recording material based on image data; a control section which controls the image forming section to form the image based on the program stored in the first memory section; an ID memory section which stores a serial number of the

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image forming apparatus and program information about the program stored in the first memory section; and an image forming apparatus connecting section to connect the image forming apparatus with a network.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, moreover, the administering apparatus comprises: an administering memory section to store a rewrite program for the image forming apparatus; an ID memory section which stores at least one serial number corresponding to at least one said image forming apparatus to be administrated and rewrite program information about the rewrite program stored in the administering memory section; and an administering apparatus connecting section to connect the administering apparatus with the network.

And according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 8, the image forming apparatus: (a) communicates with the administering apparatus through the network, (b) obtains the rewrite program stored in the administering memory section, and (c) rewrites the program stored in the first memory section with the obtained rewrite program when the serial number stored in the ID memory section of the image forming apparatus corresponds to one said at least one serial number stored in the ID memory section of the administering apparatus, and when the rewrite program is

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determined to be newer than the program stored in the first memory section based on the rewrite program information stored in the administering apparatus and the program information stored in the ID memory section.

With this structure, it is possible to rewrite the program stored in the image forming apparatus without requiring a service technician to go to the installation location of the image forming apparatus.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Domenikos et al nor Nachinson et al discloses, teaches or suggests the above described features of the claimed present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 8.

Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 18, as well as each of claims 2-17 and 19-23 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Domenikos et al and Nachinson et al, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

RE: FORM PTO/SB/08A

As requested by the Examiner, a copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A submitted with the IDS filed on March 9, 2005, is submitted herewith.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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